

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

CLASS OF MEDICAL GRADUATES

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

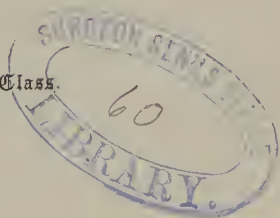
DELIVERED AT THE

PUBLIC COMMENCEMENT, MARCH 27TH, 1858.

BY

JOSEPH LEIDY, M.D.,
PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, *March 24, 1858.*

At a meeting of the Medical Graduating Class of the University of Pennsylvania, held according to a previous notice in the Anatomical Amphitheatre, on motion of Dr. S. H. Wimberly, of Ala., Dr. Wm. M. Turner, of Va., was called to the chair, and Dr. Eugene Grissom, of N. C., appointed Secretary. On further motion, the President appointed the following gentlemen as a committee to request, on behalf of the Class, a copy of Professor Joseph Leidy's Valedictory Address for publication, viz:—

H. D. SCHMIDT, Pa.
H. LENOX HODGE, Pa.
JOHN M. McGRATH, Pa.
JOHN R. JONES, Va.
W. C. LARKIN, Ala.
H. A. SCHELL, Tenn.
J. DEAS NOTT, Ala.

WM. M. TURNER, *President,*

EUGENE GRISSOM, *Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA, *March 24, 1858.*

PROF. JOSEPH LEIDY, M. D.

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned, have been appointed a Committee, on the part of the present Graduating Class, to solicit from you the favor of a copy of your Valedictory Address, to be delivered at the approaching Commencement, for publication. Hoping that you may see fit to grant this last request of the Class, we remain your friends and pupils,

H. D. SCHMIDT, Pa.
H. LENOX HODGE, Pa.
JOHN M. McGRATH, Pa.
JOHN R. JONES, Va.
WM. C. LARKIN, Ala.
HENRY A. SCHELL, Tenn.
J. DEAS NOTT, Ala.

PHILADELPHIA, *March 24, 1858.*

GENTLEMEN: It affords me much pleasure, in complying with the wishes of the Graduating Class, to furnish a copy of the Valedictory Address prepared for the approaching Commencement.

With feelings of the highest respect and friendship, I remain at the further service of the Class.

JOSEPH LEIDY.

To MESSRS. SCHMIDT, HODGE, McGRATH, JONES, LARKIN, SCHELL,
and NOTT, Committee of the Graduating Class.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN GRADUATES:—

ON the present occasion, while you are, with reason, exulting at the success of the first great enterprise of your life, and impatient to reach home in order that your families and friends may offer to you their congratulations, and participate in your own joy, you are perhaps not in the most favorable mood to consider the graver aspects of your future career, or to take counsel upon the best means of promoting some of the great objects of the medical profession.

At this moment, when you have only bright prospects before you, it may seem to you not only unnecessary, but unseasonable, to speak of pains to be anticipated in the practice of your calling, or of fresh labors to be undergone for the sake of its advancement. Yet if you reflect that in a few short hours we are to separate—most of us forever; that the relationship of teacher and pupil, which we have so long held, is now to end; and that you are soon to form entirely new associations; you cannot fail so far to respond to the interest which moves your instructors, as to receive willingly their parting words of friendship, though some

of these should bring to you thoughts of a kind to sober your present impressions. To you, the future alone, filled as it must be with your brightest imaginings, appears sufficient to engage all your attention. To us, the past comes with many voices of admonition, which it is our solemn duty to bring to your ears, before you shall pass beyond the reach of our efforts, for your advantage.

Three years have elapsed since you commenced your preparatory medical studies, now so honorably terminating in your admission to the ranks of our profession. The motives which determined your choice of a career so full at once of high incentives, and of perils worthy of your most careful anticipation, have an important relation to all that you can do, or be, hereafter. Have you reviewed those motives as you found yourselves approaching the period at which you must assume the responsibilities, as well as indulge in the hopes and aspirations of the profession?

Was it that you were touched by the sight of sickness and pain, and that your feelings of benevolence prompted you to devote yourself to relieve the sufferings of humanity, as the self-denying missionary, who, with a firm conviction of the importance of his religious faith to the welfare of the human race, leaves home and kindred, and their attendant comforts and sympathies, to convert savage tribes of men? Or was it that you were moved by a spirit of scientific inquiry, a love of philosophy, a desire to become acquainted with anatomy, physiology, pathology, and other branches appertaining to the study of medicine which throw light on the laws of organic

existence? Was your resolution the offspring of a desire to obtain the esteem of men for devoted attention to the preservation of their health, or to earn respect, distinction, and honors, by promoting the interests of the profession? Were you guided by the idea of rising through its means to a position of influence and affluence; or were you controlled by the mere necessity of choosing some profession, calling, or occupation?

Have you considered that, beside all of these conscious motives, there is in every community a force, which, being proximate to the will of each individual, by insensible impulses inclines him in one direction rather than another; fixes his attention for the time upon special objects, and renders his choice more the result of temporary inducements, than the product of his judgment exercised upon an enlarged estimate of his character, and of the probabilities legitimately connected with his position. This is what we call "the force of circumstances." Perhaps it would be impossible for any one of us accurately to know the weight which the causes that I have mentioned have had respectively in the determination of his mind towards the medical profession; yet within certain limits it is not difficult for us to discover what are our dominant motives, perhaps the comparative rank of these in respect to their influence upon our resolutions and acts; and to this extent then, I rely upon your voluntary self-inspection to sustain me in my endeavor briefly to show the practical connection of these motives with your future professional conduct.

What is it that you undertake by the solemn obligation of this day? In the midst of countless variations from the normal healthy functions of the complex human organization, occurring in as truly countless modifications of individual diathesis, and of external conditions both of health and of disease, you venture to take upon yourselves the heavy responsibilities of life, of domestic and social relationship, and of public safety, which are involved in the cases to be submitted to your treatment. All that there is of hourly tranquillity; of freedom from suffering, often aggravated to torture; all that there is of most tender in the ties of husband and wife, of parent and child, of friends closely united; all that there is of public interest in the preservation of the most noble statesmen, or in the protection of millions of people against the deadly horrors of pestilence; in a single phrase, all that there is of difference between the joyous usefulness of healthy life and the torpid, or pang-stricken or dying man, is to be committed to your conscience and your skill. Satisfied as you have made us feel with your faithful efforts to qualify yourselves for so momentous a duty as that which you have assumed, proud indeed as we are to see you go forth with the testimonial of the parent of american medical schools to your fidelity hitherto, it must nevertheless be said that it is with anxious hearts that we witness your approach to the temptations, the struggles, and the perils which await you.

It is true that every young man, when about to enter upon his conflicts with the world, has before him enough of these to awaken deep interest in the mind of

a reflecting and humane spectator. As the candidate for knightly honors in the olden time went forth, after vigil, and fasting, and prayer, with the throb of honorable purpose in his breast, and with the eyes of kindred and friends upon him, to win the insignia of loyalty and courage, so does every one of us, though with less ceremonial, and oftentimes with less saintliness of preparation, begin the career of contests against the foes of our character and usefulness. We must encounter the common temptations of life, whether these come to us from without, or in the more dangerous form of internal incitement. These must affect our relations and our acts as men, whatever our profession, whatever our fortune. On this occasion, however, it is most fit that your attention be directed to those besetments which are peculiar to the course which you have adopted, and from which, according as you are true or false to your profession, you may gain strength, honor, and fruitfulness, on the one hand, or suffer discouragement, discredit, and defeat upon the other.

On this day, in the midst of grateful excitement, bearing the badge of your newly gained distinction; with eyes directed to your imaginary future; with hearts stimulated by the purest motives to disinterested and yet emulous exertions; with the dignity of your vocation, and its various intellectual advantages profoundly impressed upon your minds, it seems to you, doubtless, that the petty play of insignificant and unworthy feelings, the misconceptions of the unlettered multitude, the competition of unscientific pretenders,

the low seductions of indolence or passion, can never obscure, much less thwart, your generous zeal for science, and for the alleviation of human suffering. Yet it will happen to you, perhaps it has, in other circumstances, already been your fortune to notice, that the causes which most frequently depress the spirit and pervert the energies of men are not those which come to them clearly defined, and with warning of their approach, and with a loud summons to engage with them in combat for great interests. Such a note of preparation usually awakens the resistance which protects the assaulted party. There is something in the defiance of a formidable enemy which rouses the best powers of our nature; and we stand better against a force which from the front threatens destruction, than against the continued wiles and stratagems and harassments of a small but persistent party which hangs upon our advance, noiselessly stifles our sentries, steals upon us in our hours of repose, and renders every minute a space of watchful uneasiness, without offering the chances of open conflict. In our profession, as in every other, the opportunities for the exercise of eminent virtues in the sight of our fellows are of comparatively rare occurrence; whereas the calls upon us for patience, perseverance, forbearance, without any immediate or certain recompense besides that of our own conscientious approval, are frequent. Shall I mention some of these? I know that they may appear to you trivial, perhaps unworthy of the associations of time and place; but hereafter, when the weight of professional care shall rest fully upon you, and the exigencies of professional

duty shall have been connected with the habitual expressions of your nature, you will feel—deeply feel—how even such things as I shall suggest may mar the satisfaction, if not clog the systematic conduct, of your professional life.

The very persons for whose benefit you are giving the fruit of your studies, and in whose behalf you make the most disinterested of your efforts; in fact, the great mass of the uneducated community, will, from your outset, receive you with a degree of confidence not proportionate to your just claims. The very nature of your office will be misapprehended. From one extreme of an extravagant and blind trust, you will often find the transition easy and swift to the other extreme of bitter disappointment, censure, and reproach.

Men generally appear not to be aware that a physician is only one from among their own number, set apart, as it were, to devote his time and attention toward determining, by the evidence within his reach, the nature, causes, and best means for the prevention or removal of the numerous diseases which afflict society. Notwithstanding the difficulties incident to his pursuit, it seems to be a common expectation that he shall be capable of removing all diseases within a comparatively brief space of time, and under any circumstances; and it is not reflected that causes over which we have no control, may have so altered the constitution of the body that it would be quite as easy to create a new one as to restore the disordered portions to their former condition. An impression prevails that physicians should be able even to prevent death in a worn-out body.

Some countenance, indeed, has been given to these popular errors by a phraseology which is not seldom employed by the members of our profession; one which, properly interpreted, means only that we should regard our duty as unperformed while any important problem remains unsolved. In this sense, the “*opprobria*” of medicine, are severe tasks which are set for us, and without the accomplishment of which we cannot obtain the highest distinction in the school of nature, our great mistress. To the popular mind, however, these “*opprobria*” are indicative of personal unfitness on our own part; as proofs, indeed, that either ourselves or our professed science must be unworthy of the public confidence. In natural connection with such a conclusion, you may observe a forwardness and assumption of knowledge on the part of your patient. That which you are presumed unable to ascertain by years of special study of the subject, HE ventures to settle for you; and he asks you to take the responsibility of acting upon his judgment instead of your own.

Formerly, more than now, when people were ill, they intrusted themselves to the charge of a physician just as we place a time-piece in the hands of a watch-maker to be repaired—without troubling ourselves as to the means to be employed for the purpose. In the present age, almost every one thinks he has some knowledge of medicine; and if he does not actually attempt to treat his own case, yet, when placing himself under professional treatment, he begins by a kind of stipulating statement that he is opposed to dieting, to the use of calomel, to quinine,

or to other means which, in the judgment of the physician, might be deemed applicable to his particular condition.

It is easy to perceive that so loose an estimate of the claims of trained professional skill must expose patients to the artful pretensions of empirics. These, through repeated advertisement of their medicines, accompanied with the recommendations of illiterate or unscrupulous persons, and supported by the exaggerated puffs of venial editors, not only successfully compete with the educated and conscientious practitioner, but frequently succeed in making larger fortunes than even the most prosperous merchants. False systems, too, which hang like hideous parasites upon the regular practice of medicine, including homœopathy, hydropathy, thomsonianism, eclecticism, mesmerism, and the pseudo-therapeutics of some of the disciples of modern spiritualism, are the constant reliance of an easily deluded and superstitious people.

One class of patients who are not inclined to renounce altogether the "chances" of the regular practice, will endeavor to reconcile in their own cases the contradictory principles of all the other leading methods of treatment; and you may even hear from persons not below the average of the intelligence of your community, the equivocal compliment that you are an excellent physician for grown persons, but that a homœopathic practitioner is preferable for the children, because his medicines are so easy to take!

It must not surprise you to find, in the midst of so many errors unworthy of your science and of your personal qualifications, that even the moderate compensa-

tion which is awarded to medical service in this country, is often conceded with a reserve to which every sensitive man must be keenly susceptible; and that when your best efforts have been unavailing, you will sometimes be met with not only an ungrateful appreciation of your sacrifice of time, repose, and labor, and your bestowal of anxiety as well as care, but even with sharp looks of reproach, as though your failure were a homicide. In cases of doubtful diagnosis, however cautious, and earnest, and persevering may have been your endeavors, you may be deeply pained by rumors which lay upon you the burden of having, by ungrounded pretensions, won a confidence which you have repaid by the death of a wife, or child, or parent. Gratitude, that rich recompense for kind offices, when it comes spontaneously and without ostentation, will not be always enjoyed by you. You may rather encounter the very positive opposite feeling. By a curious inconsistency, the classes who most under-rate your profession, and give themselves most readily to all the devices of charlatanry, will hold you to the strictest account for your failures, as though you ought to have been infallible. The poor, to whom, in conformity with your own humane impulses, and in compliance with one of the most honorable of your professional duties, you will give your time and skill, will often prove the most ungrateful of your patients. Many of them will receive as their naked right whatever you can do for them, and will make you no return but unjust criticisms, and wounding suspicions of your fidelity. Even the public judgment, when given under the influence of cultivated citizens, may be backward in the recognition

of your deserts. It is to be hoped that we shall not again witness such an example as that related by Dr. Rush, who states that, in December, 1793, the citizens of Philadelphia assembled at the State House, and voted their thanks to the committee who had superintended the city during the prevalence of the yellow fever of that year; that a motion was afterwards made to thank the physicians of the city for their services; and that this motion was not seconded. The services and sacrifices of those physicians may be estimated from the facts that the patients attended were of the poorer classes, as those who could afford it left the city; and of the thirty-five physicians who remained to attend the sick, eight died, and of the others only three escaped an attack of the fever.

There are evidences of a better appreciation in our own day, as we witness in the medals and monuments awarded to heroic professional endeavors in seasons of pestilence; still it is right to avoid too great reliance for our moral support, at any juncture, upon the readiness of public apprehension.

There is one source of interference with your legitimate career, which I regret deeply to be compelled to mention, because it is amongst the members of the medical profession that you will find it; those towards whom your confidence is now warm, and your sympathies sincere and earnest.

You will be brought into competition with men who, feeling that you have the advantage of them intellectually and morally, will, by insinuations and misrepresentation, attempt to displace you in the confidence of families or of the community. Envy of your rising

reputation, will lead them secretly to defame your character, often with the utmost rancor. Repel, but do not repeat such attacks. If you are not led into what you would find an unequal strife with unprincipled men, you will not be materially injured by their slanders.

A circumstance which occurred shortly after I commenced practice, tended much to disgust me at the time with the practice of medicine. I had been called to attend a child with all the symptoms of tubercular meningitis. I informed the parents of the inefficiency of medicine in such a case; but, with a vague hope that something might be done for the little sufferer, I was requested to visit it. After a week had elapsed, another and much older practitioner was called in, who continued to attend the child until it died, when he informed the parents that he could have saved the life of his patient if he had been called in at the time of my first visit!

It would be unjust to the great body of our brethren if, while noticing the unworthy conduct of a portion of them, I should fail to express my conviction that the number of such recreants to professional duty is in small proportion to the whole; but even one such enemy to the rights and feelings of his fellow practitioners may prove to you the cause or the occasion of life-long annoyance; and for this, as for all others of the evils incident to your labors, you ought to be seasonably prepared.

Beside the external circumstances of your practice, of which the examples now adduced are illustrations, there are trials peculiar to it, from which there is no escape; and to which you must be exposed just in proportion as you are conscientious and humane in your

functions. The very fact that most of your intercourse with men must be when they are suffering, suggests a shadow over your social relations; but when it is added that you must frequently witness the inefficiency of every attempt to arrest the progress of disease and to lighten pain; and that you must hear, without being able to respond to them by any real encouragement, the appeals of a distracted family in behalf of its head and sole support, or for the safety of a beloved mother, or wife, or child, surely the prospect becomes one which must give pause to every right-hearted student, however sanguine his estimate of the future. In the midst of such appeals, of daily recurrence, you will be disturbed by doubts of the nature of the diseases whose symptoms are to be the guides of your curative efforts; by the unexpected appearance and fluctuations of those symptoms; by unusual and unfavorable effects of medicines administered; by the anxieties of relatives and friends of the sick; by your own, often vain, attempts to assure yourself that you are not doing or omitting something to the detriment of your patient. Add further, that all this series of trials, internal and external, must be encountered, while by day and by night, at every season, and through every vicissitude of the weather, you are following the calls of the sick; while, too, you are urged by the care of your own maintenance, and perhaps that of a family, who look to you for their bread and their culture; and will you not agree with me that those ought to be clearly defined, and very firm and good motives which should induce you to pledge the maturity of your

age, as well as the fresh feelings of your youth, to the practice of medicine.

Happily I shall be able to offer to your notice some compensations for the harassing nature of your profession ; but before doing this, I must here, first and above all else, say to you that no external support, or consolation, or safeguard, can equal, or serve as a substitute for, the simple principles of manly integrity. In the sincerity of these you may walk the world, with firm heart, with head erect, conscious of a pure intent to do your duty, and trustfully awaiting, never rashly seeking, whatever conflicts are in the route of your profession. Thus fortified, no detractions of an undiscerning crowd ; no distrust on the part of those who reap the benefit of your daily toils ; no interference of the rash and conceited ; no competitions unworthily conducted against you by lying pretenders ; no examples of ingratitude where you look for friendly recognition of your services ; no mean jealousies or endeavors to supplant you on the part of false brethren of the profession ; not even the strivings of your own sensitive hearts in the presence of suffering, and woe, and death, will be able to shake your solid minds, and unfit you for the performance of your duty in a becoming manner. Against such temptations you will be provided with both cautions and aids ; and when they come to you in doubtful guise, and the bias of interest or passion may incline you too much towards their entertainment, you will have, in the little code of professional ethics which the combined wisdom of the profession has constructed, ready criteria by which to rectify the undue proneness of your

judgments, or to admonish you of the hazards to which you are exposed.

But, as I have intimated, you will not be required to meet the evils of your professional life only in the stern character of combatants. There are enjoyments not only of the kinds open to all men, but also such as are peculiar to your profession, which will more than counterbalance in the aggregate, and in many instances will neutralize, the agencies which, regarded by themselves, might appear sufficient to fill your days with anxiety, melancholy, and perhaps despair. Thus, in the social relations, if there are frequent occurrences of a displeasing nature, there are numerous occasions of most gratifying intercourse to reward the faithful practitioner. His education qualifies him for general communication with cultivated persons; and the knowledge of men and manners which he acquires through his intimate conversation in the domestic life of his patients, gives a facility and variety to his discourse, and a refinement to his perceptions, and a ready adaptation to his sympathies, which contribute to make him a welcome guest even when no recourse is needed to his healing art. Amongst the class of persons whose friendship is most desirable, his services in time of pain and distress, become the bonds of a union more close than exists with the members of other professions. To old and young, grave and gay, the sick, and those who fear to be so, he occupies the position of confidential friend; and receives, in time of need, a grateful measure of the sympathy and aid which he has given to the adverse fortune of others. If he perseveres in an upright and labori-

ous career, he may even secure to himself the honors of the public voice; which, though of uncertain utterance, and silenced often, at least temporarily, by irrelevant motives, yet sometimes comes to award the civic crown to well-doers while they are within reach of its bestowment; and always pronounces, after lapse of time, a just commendation of good desert. Esculapius and Hippocrates were thought by the Greeks to be equal to divine honors; and you may remember how the father of Grecian epics speaks of the wounded Machaon,

“A good physician, skilled to heal,
Is more than armies to the public weal.”

The ringing of church bells, and the illumination of the town of Leyden, attested the common rejoicing at the recovery of the great Boerhave from a dangerous sickness. You will of course not expect such demonstrations as this; but the reverence with which you have followed the footsteps, and treasured the counsels, of the eminent masters of our science in both hemispheres, and the voluntary honors paid to them by your preceptors, may suffice to convince you that a rational ambition does not fail of reward.

Remember, too, that the anxieties arising from your engagements among the suffering have proportionate compensations in the frequent success of your therapeutical management. You will oftener succeed than fail in your efforts to check the progress of disease, and to subdue pain; and in most of such cases you may enjoy unchecked the gratifying results of your skill. From a majority of your patients you will receive the testimony of grateful remembrance, for your instrumentality in

their rescue from disease or death; and you will be a daily sharer of that gladsome home-light with which it is your happy privilege to dispel gloom, and tears, and despair.

If in the effort, praiseworthy it always must be, to secure yourselves against dependence and poverty, and to procure the means of surrounding yourself with the affections and proper comforts of home, you should sometimes meet with discouragements, especially in the early part of your career, it is enough to cheer you that the chances are in your favor, and that in every community you may see professional brethren who, from circumstances as narrow as those of any one of your number, have advanced to positions of ease—some of them to affluence and high station. In short, at every stage of comparison you may be assured that, as in other departments of life, so in ours, the trials, while they are enough to test the principles and resolutions of each individual, are not so great as to quench the hope, abate the firmness, or permanently to impair the cheerfulness of a constant man, whose motives are worthy of his profession.

There remains to be noticed one source of enjoyment, which I have reserved to the last, because it is the one most intimately connected with your professional pursuits, and is incident to the systematic occupation which ought to fill up the intervals of professional visits; I mean the intellectual gratification to be derived from the studies which it will be alike your duty and your immediate interest to cultivate. In these, your observation, your reading, your reflection, your intercourse with well-

informed brethren, will furnish continual satisfaction, and give a variety of relief from the compulsory toil to which you must submit. I speak of your future studies without an elaborate proof of their necessity; for I trust that none of you has so far failed in his apprehension of our instructions as to believe that the diploma this day presented to him is more than the evidence of his having passed the first stage of preparation. The very textbooks which you have used are sufficient to negative the thought that hereafter you may safely rest upon the stock of knowledge which you have acquired in our school. That some men, by unworthy arts, aided by a credulity most easily aroused by such means, have contrived to gain a subsistence, and perhaps more, may be true; but I cannot associate such examples with you, my friends, in this day's reflections. I must presume that if you err at all, it will be from too restricted an estimate of the real exigencies of the responsibility which you have assumed—too narrow a comprehension of the fields of research, upon the products of which your professional success is to be dependent.

Some of the modes in which your industry is to be employed have been already indicated to you, indeed actually used by you, in the course of your preparation for your degree. The careful and systematic perusal of the best treatises upon each branch of medical science; the annotation of cases; the vigilant appropriation of every new fact, discovered in any part of the world; the exercise of your analytical and synthetical powers in the diagnosis and prognosis of the various forms of disease; your comparison of different modes of treatment, at

the different stages of each malady, and other means of improvement, have become familiar to you. Hitherto your clinique has been prepared for you, according to the course of your preliminary studies; your guides and demonstrators have been your late instructors in medicine. Hereafter, your cases will be presented according to the chances of the community in which you live. You will be obliged to take with you as preceptors the recorded judgments of the sages of the profession, and the recollection of what you have heard from your teachers here; and your clinique must be methodized by yourselves. In proportion as you faithfully accomplish this, will be the freshness and the fertility of your professional mind. I shall not dwell on this view of your future employments, but will rather sketch for you a special application of your labor, suited to any circle of practice; an application sufficiently comprehensive to embrace every department; sufficiently special in its relations to be of most practical utility to yourselves, your profession, and the world.

Wherever your residence, the conditions and phenomena of disease will vary in some respects from those exhibited in other localities. These variations constitute the peculiarities of your neighborhood; and, for their correct observation and report, you, more than strangers to your vicinage, must be regarded as responsible. They are indispensable materials towards the widest and most rational induction of the laws of disease; and by bringing them not only under your own scrutiny, but also under that of skilful thinkers in other parts of the country, you will contribute in the best manner to the

discharge of your general obligation to the profession. To fulfil your duty, then, in this respect, I recommend to you a careful study of the peculiar physical, intellectual, and moral conditions under which yourselves and your patients live. At the commencement of your career, there will be at your command leisure for collateral observations, such as would be wholly impracticable after your establishment in full practice.

Begin, then, by observing the geological constitution of your locality; for this has a controlling influence upon the nature of the soil and its vegetable productions, and has an intimate relation to the occupations and habits of the people, as well as to the permanent external features of the country. Notice those features in adjacent regions, as well as in that in which you dwell; for the conditions of disease vary with the mountainous and hilly districts, with the plains, with the sea border, with inland position, with valleys, rivers, lakes, marshes, &c. See what is the fertility of the soils around you, to what extent sterile, or cultivated, or wooded, and the character of the vegetation. Include the minerals within your range, and the analysis of the water drunk by the inhabitants, and the food and occupation of these. Ascertain the diseases of domestic animals; and compare them, as well as the maladies of your patients, with what your reading has informed you of the same general pathological subjects in other places. Especially regard all diseases of an endemic or local character, and the peculiar modifications of epidemics. In the higher and more subtle sphere of intellectual and moral phenomena, let nothing escape you which ought to be in-

cluded in your means of judgment upon those causes which, either remotely through the manners and habits of the people, or immediately by their internal functional relations, may affect the healthy play of the understanding and the emotions, or embarrass your management of corporeal symptoms.

Your observations, experiments, comparisons, and deductions with reference to these subjects, ought, no less than the particulars of your treatment of cases, to be carefully recorded in such manner as to allow of repeated systematic review. The collation and digest of such records from many localities, would lead to most important results. Heretofore, little, compared with the want to be supplied, has been done towards the discussion of the circumstances which modify the general forms of disease. These have been too often defined as though they were fixed, and unaffected by the qualifications with which nature really exhibits them to us. The National and State Medical Associations might very advantageously bestow greater and more regular attention than they have yet given to the method under our consideration. For its encouragement they might prepare and distribute to the physicians of the United States a series of carefully propounded questions, so arranged as to leave blank spaces for answers, according to the capacity and means of information of individuals. These would both stimulate and facilitate observations and replies which might otherwise never be made, and would bring to the general knowledge and use of the profession materials which, without combined effort, must be confined to a very narrow circle. To THERA-

PEUTICS, the consequences must be of the highest interest. This branch of our study is frequently remarked as not having kept pace with the modern advances in chemistry, anatomy, physiology, and pathology; and you will have many opportunities for observing how this fact is due to a dogmatic, or to a merely conjectural procedure on the part of practitioners. You will be required to consider how the organization of man stands related to all the external objects which constitute the sum of the conditions of his healthy functions, or of the phases of disease to which he is subject; and you will have repeated proofs that in the science of medicine, as in all other sciences, conjectural explanations of particular cases, and theories founded on insufficient observation, are inadequate to the exigencies of practical use. You will be convinced by numerous examples of the value of my recommendation to explore all the external relations of your customary patients, which have any connection with those susceptibilities which may come under your professional notice and care. Not indeed that you can reach all the details of every department of learning, the principles of which are applicable to your purposes; but it will always be in your power to employ the conclusions of experts in each department, to suggest, to guide, and to enlighten your inquiries; and it will be your appropriate task to give practical effect within your own sphere, to that which others have established by separate inductions. Towards some of these you will be attracted by causes similar to those which made you choose the profession of medicine rather than another; and while you neglect no convenient oppor-

tunity for the acquisition of general information, you may very properly give your principal studies in that direction for which you find yourselves especially fitted by your talents, your tastes, and the character of your previous attainments.

I have now, gentlemen, briefly, as required by the proper limits of this occasion, brought to your attention some of the discouragements for which you ought to be prepared, some of the compensations which you may reasonably expect, and a summary of labors which, in addition to the continuance of your general studies, may occupy you most profitably to your profession and to mankind. It is not my province to speak to you, further than by mere allusion, of those topics which are essential to the maintenance of rectitude in every walk of life. Your opportunities will be such as to render your personal character and deportment of the highest consequence to your relations to the communities in which you are to live, and to the estimate which the members of these are to form of the discipline of your profession. The best wishes of the Faculty will follow you from the moment of separation. Wherever your domicil, whatever your fortune, we do not need your assurance to satisfy us that you will always look to us as fast friends, and willing counsellors and aids in every emergency in which we can properly interpose for your advantage. In this confidence we bid you a respectful and hearty
FAREWELL.

GRADUATES.

At a Public Commencement, held March 27, 1858, in the Musical Fund Hall, the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by HENRY VETHAKE, LL.D., Provost, upon the following gentlemen; after which an Address was delivered by JOSEPH LEIDY, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
Akin, James T.	Columbia,	Maury,	Tenn.	Scarlatina.
Armstrong, Jas. G.	Wilson,	Wilson,	N. C.	Therapeutical application of Oleum Terebinthinæ.
Baird, John L.	Murfreesboro',	Rutherford,	Tenn.	Acute Meningitis.
Barber, Gideon M.	Rushville,	Rush,	Ind.	Arteritis.
Baugh, Virginus N.	Stony Creek,	Sussex,	Va.	Variola.
Beall, Thos. T.	Church Hill,	Jefferson,	Miss.	The Physician's Calling.
Beldon, Oliver S.	Salem,	Salem,	N. J.	Chemistry in Treatment for Metallic Poison.
Bethell, Chas. P.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Hygienic Management of Children.
Boilcau, Nathaniel B.	Easton,	Northampton,	Pa.	Cholera Infantum.
Boisnot, James M.	Six Mile Run,	Somerset,	N. J.	The Physiology of Woman.
Bolton, Edw. C.	N. Orleans,	Par. of Orleans,	La.	Yellow Fever in Norfolk.
Booth, John W.	Fairport,	Granville,	N. C.	Mammary Inflammation.
Boynton, Gaines M.	Albany	Dougherty,	Ga.	Hæmostatics.
Bullock, Wm. J.	Wilson,	Wilson,	N. C.	Hernia.
Cadwallader, D. Willis	Yardleyville,	Bucks,	Pa.	Regimen.
Carpenter, Thos. P.	Criglersville,	Madison,	Va.	Cholera Morbus.
Christy, Henry C.	Fair View,	Cambria,	Pa.	Indigestion.
Clark, Edwin P.	Orange C. H.	Orange,	Va.	Typhoid Fever.
Clemens, Jas. W.	Wheeling,	Ohio,	Va.	The Minute Structure of Bone.
Curtis, Geo. B.	Honesdale,	Wayne,	Pa.	Psoas Abscess.
Daniel, Benj. W.	Americus,	Sumter,	Ga.	Conception.
Darby, J. Thomson	Fort Motte,	St. Matthew's,	S. C.	The Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Supra Renal Capsules.
Dearing, Asa W., jr.	Flint Hill,	Rappahannock,	Va.	Characteristic Signs of Fever.
Deloatch, Henry W.	Margaretsville,	Northampton,	N. C.	Dysentery.
Doss, Henry W.	Pickensville,	Pickens,	Ala.	Venescction.
Douthit, John E.	Clemmons ville,	Davidson,	N. C.	Somatic and Molecular Death.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
Dugger, Reuben H.	Macon,	Marengo,	Ala.	Irritable Uterus, its Causes & Treatment.
Duncan, Wm. S.	Brownsville,	Fayette,	Pa.	Emansio Mensium.
Ellis, Andrew J.	Garysburg,	Northampton,	N. C.	Inflammation.
Evans, Horace Y.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Cataract.
Fleming, C. Edwin	Columbia,	Richland Dist.,	S. C.	Exophthalmia.
Flynn, William	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Typhus Fever.
Gibbes, Robert R.	Beaufort	Bcaufort Dist.,	S. C.	The Economy of Nature in the Chemistry of Life.
Gibbs, Benj. F.	Freehold,	Monmouth,	N. J.	Man's Relation to Natural Laws.
Gordon, Hiram W.	Madison,	Madison,	Va.	Nephritis.
Granbery, Wm. B.	Macon,	Fayette,	Tenn.	Inflammation.
Gray, Chas.	Annapolis,	Annapolis, Nova	Scotia.	Analogies of Animal and Vegetable Life.
Gregg, James P.	Hublersburg,	Centre,	Pa.	Enteric Fever.
Grier, Wm. P.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Origin and Progress of Medicine.
Grissom, Eugene	Oxford,	Granville,	N. C.	Cinchona, its Alkaloids and their Salts.
Hanly, Jos. J.	Camden,	Camden,	N. J.	"Medicinæ Doctor."
Harlan, Geo. C.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	The Iris.
Hawes, Cary N.	Paris,	Bourbon,	Ky.	Infantile Hygiene.
Hawk, Edward P.	Lambertville,	Hunterdon,	N. J.	Scarlatina.
Hay, William	Millwood,	Clark,	Va.	Aneurism.
Hayes, Robt. F.	New Berlin,	Union,	Pa.	Enteric Fever.
Hess, John F.	Mt. Vernon,	Knox,	Ohio.	Smallpox.
Hill, David W.	Barrington,	Shelburne, Nova	Scotia.	Scarlatina.
Hines, James M.	Marlboro',	Pitt,	N. C.	Arsenic.
Hitch, William J.	Laurel,	Sussex,	Del.	Alcohol.
Hodge, H. Lenox	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Glycerina.
Horton, O. R.	Anderson C. H.	Anderson Dist.,	S. C.	Remittent Fever.
Houston, Isaac H.	Millsboro',	Sussex,	Del.	The Dissection of the Human Body.
Howard, John	Tarboro',	Edgecombe,	N. C.	Tuberculosis.
Howell, Samuel B.	Camden,	Camden,	N. J.	The History of Circulation
Hurl, Sam'l H. (M. D.)	Charlestown,	Middlesex,	Mass.	The Pancreas.
Hutchinson, Jas. H.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	The Blood.
Jemison, Lewis	Princeton,	Mercer,	N. J.	Irritable Uterus.
Johnston Wm.	Wolfville,	Kings, Nova	Scotia.	Carcinoma.
Jones, John Randolph	Hicksford,	Greenville,	Va.	Yellow Fever.
Jones, R. Harrison	Huntsville,	Madison,	Ala.	Hydrocele.
Jones, William J.	Oxford,	Granville,	N. C.	Scarlatina.
Kendall, W. Devereux	Paris,	Henry,	Tenn.	Emetics as Therapeutic Agents.
Kennedy, Stiles E.	Greensboro',	Caroline,	Md.	The Tongue as a Symptom in certain Idiopathic Fevers.
Kercheval, J. M.	Nashville,	Davidson,	Tenn.	Syphilis.
King, Benjamin R.	Leighton,	Lawrence,	Ala.	Veratrum Viride.
Larison, Geo. H.	Sergeantville,	Hunterdon,	N. J.	Phosphorus.
Larkin, Wm. C.	Uniontown,	Perry,	Ala.	The Duties of a Young Physician.
Lea, Calvin D.	Yanceyville,	Caswell,	N. C.	Erysipelas.
Lea, Calvin G.	Milton,	Caswell,	N. C.	A View of the Medical Profession.
Leach, John S.	Raleigh,	Wake,	N. C.	Inflammation.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
Leecraft, Lafayette F.	Beaufort,	Carteret,	N. C.	Influences of Inter-marriage over Generation.
Lindsay, John L.	Crighlersville,	Madison,	Va.	Hepatitis.
Linton, Herman B.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Diagnosis.
Lipscomb, Moses Q.	Louisa C. H.		Va.	Drinks.
Livezey, Edward	Plymouth Meeting,	Montgomery,	Pa.	Podophillin.
Long, Henry	Mt. Pleasant,	Mauzy,	Tenn.	Epilepsy.
Lotz, George	New Berlin,	Union,	Pa.	Vaccination.
Maclure, Wm. M. G.	Nassau,	New Providence,	Bahamas.	Yellow Fever.
Martin, Henry F.	Allentown,	Lehigh,	Pa.	Enteric Fever.
Matthews, Benj. B.	Lambertville,	Hunterdon,	N. J.	Vaccination as a Preventive of Smallpox.
McCall, Charles A.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Criminal Abortion.
McGrath, John M.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Erysipelas.
McLean, Wm. L. D.	Beattie's Ford,	Lincoln,	N. C.	Dysentery.
McTyre, Adoniram R. J.	Midlothian,	Chesterfield,	Va.	Intermittent Fever.
Moore, Thomas J.	Hollidaysburg,	Blair,	Pa.	Arthritis.
Morgan, Isaiah Du Bose	Eutaw,	Green,	Ala.	Medicine.
Newton, John, jr.	Sabathoo,		North India.	Cannabis Indica.
Newman, Thomas	Booth's Corner,	Delaware,	Pa.	Physiology of Life.
Nixon, Thos. M.	Edenton,	Chowan,	N. C.	Pinus Palustris.
Norris, George Pepper	Wilmington,	Newcastle,	Del.	Diabetes.
Norman, H. H.	Plymouth,	Washington,	N. C.	Influences which Modify the Effects of Medicines.
Nott, J. Deas	Mobile,	Mobile,	Ala.	Hygiene.
Oliver, Hillary F.	Greenville,	Butler,	Ala.	Acute Hepatitis.
Ormiston, Robt , jr.	Ox Bow,	Jefferson,	N. Y.	The Atmosphere, its Relation to Life and Disease.
Parker, Richard H.	Portsmouth,	Norfolk,	Va.	Yellow Fever in Portsmouth, Va., during the summer and fall of 1855.
Penrose, Thos. N., jr.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Coffee.
Phillips, Joseph T.	Margarettsville,	Northampton,	N. C.	Pneumonia.
Pugh, Wm. P.	Jones' Mines,	Randolph,	N. C.	Chlorate of Potassa.
Purnell, George W.	Berlin,	Worcester,	Md.	Yellow Fever.
Putney, William R.	New Canton,	Buckingham,	Va.	Puerperal Fever.
Rayner, Preston	Brownsville,	Haywood,	Tenn.	Bilious Fever.
Read, Rhesa W.	Boston,	Bowie,	Texas.	Pneumonia.
Reed, Thomas Grant	Woodstown,	Salem,	N. J.	Tobacco.
Rice, John H.	Mt. Zion,	Campbell,	Va.	Hydrargyri Chloridum Mite.
Riddle, Willis P.	Eutaw,	Green,	Ala.	The Effects and Use of Ergot as a Motor Stimulant.
Rogers, W. Charles	Norristown,	Montgomery,	Pa.	Variola.
Row, Elhanon W.	Locust Grove,	Orange,	Va.	Pernicious Fever.
Rust, J. M'Affee	Mill Dale,	Warren,	Va.	Pericarditis.
Sarde, Samuel S.	Camden,	Kent,	Del.	Hæmoptysis.
Schell, Henry A.	Gallatin,	Sumner,	Tenn.	Post Partum Hemorrhage.
Schmidt, H. D.	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Microscopical Researches.
Sears, George H.	Six Mile Run,	Middlesex,	N. J.	Hydrophobia.
Servis, Howard	Clinton,	Hunterdon,	N. J.	Phenomena and Result of Inflammation.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
Shannonhouse, Jas. J.	Hertford,	Perquimans,	N. C.	Calor Animalis.
Sherwood, Thos. H.	Edina,	Knox,	Mo.	Pneumonia.
Shimer, Reuben L.	Easton,	Northampton,	Pa.	Yellow Fever.
Sills, David N.	Belford,	Nash,	N. C.	Scarlatina.
Simms, Benjamin E.	Goldsboro',	Wayne,	N. C.	Venery.
Smith, Robert O.	Paris,	Bourbon,	Ky.	Gonorrhœa.
Somervell, Augustine C.	Sharon,	Tipton,	Tenn.	Intermittent Fever.
Squire, William R.	Gaston,	Northampton,	N. C.	Rubeola.
Stanley, James P.	Somerville,	Fayette,	Tenn.	Miasmatic Remittent Fever.
Stark, Wm. D.	Altoona,	Blair,	Pa.	Railroad Accidents.
Stearnes, John L.	Rocky Mount,	Franklin,	Va.	Dysentery.
Stewart, John R.	Warrenton,	Warren,	N. C.	Duties of a Young Physician.
Stickney, Charles W.	Stockton,	Hunterdon,	N. J.	Scarlatina.
Strait, James L.	Hopewell,	Green,	Ala.	Enteric Fever.
Terrell, Henderson	Prospect Hill,	Caswell,	N. C.	Cholera Infantum.
Thome, William H.	Palmyra,	Lebanon,	Pa.	Regimen.
Thornton, Chas. P.	Lumpkin,	Stewart,	Ga.	Veratrum Viride.
Troup, J. R.	Darien,	McIntosh,	Ga.	Heat as a Condition of Vital Activity.
Turner, Wm. Mason	Hicksford,	Greensville,	Va.	Sleep and Death.
Vaughan, Aaron C.	Bedford,	Bedford,	Pa.	Respiration.
Walker, Benj. M.	Plymouth,	Washington,	N. C.	Tetanus, Idiopathic and Traumatic.
Warr, Americus V.	Rossville,	Fayette,	Tenn.	Menorrhagia.
Weber, Jacob	Philadelphia,		Pa.	Scarlatina.
Weber, Robert L.	Pottsville,	Schuylkill,	Pa.	Acute Gastritis.
Williams, Samuel C.	Carlisle,	Cumberland,	Pa.	Phthisis Pulmonalis.
Wimberly, S. H.	Union Springs,	Macon,	Ala.	Æsthetics of Medicine.
Winn, Henry I.	Demopolis,	Marengo,	Ala.	Dyspepsia.
Wiseman, Alfred W.	Farmington,	Davis,	N. C.	Typhous Dengue.
Young, S. D.	Henderson,	Granville,	N. C.	Intermittent Fever.

At a public Commencement, held July, 1857, the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on—

NAME.	COUNTY.	STATE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
George B. Wood,	Sonora,	California,	Duties of the Young Physician.
Charge B. Jennings,	Dubuque,	Iowa,	Auscultation.

Total, 145.

R. E. ROGERS, M. D., *Dean*.

*Dr. C. L. Beck
with the author's
respects.*

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

CLASS OF MEDICAL GRADUATES

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

DELIVERED AT THE

PUBLIC COMMENCEMENT, MARCH 27TH, 1858.

BY

JOSEPH LEIDY, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

Published by the Graduating Class.

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